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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
2-11268-238
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021-6399

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I hope all is well with you.

Earlier this month, I was not far from Rockefeller while attending a conference on cloning at the United Nations. Designed to educate delegations about cloning, the conference focused on the crucial differences between reproductive cloning and research on therapeutic cloning to extract embryonic stem cells. The value of continuing to study embryonic stem cells was emphasized.

The conference was organized by the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI), a new organization advocating for continued research on embryonic stem cells and therapeutic cloning while at the same time opposing reproductive cloning of humans. It strikes me as a very fine group, with a caring and committed science advisory board. More information about the organization is available on their web site, www.genpol.org.

As a pioneer in rational and humane thinking about cloning, you said in your last letter that you had grown weary of the debates. I believe we are at a critical time, where clear and scientifically informed thinking about cloning matters more than it ever did. Misinformed and politically opportunistic ideology now threatens biomedical science and the hopes of many millions for better treatments and even cures of a range of diseases. Last year, the United Nations came within one vote of passing a complete ban on human cloning of all kinds, and is scheduled to vote again this October. The U.S. House of Representatives has already voted against all forms of human cloning, and the Senate will likely take up the issue this autumn.

I can only imagine how busy you are, but might you consider reentering the fray? In my opinion, nobody else could have the depth of perspective you could bring to the topic.

Bernard Siegel, the GPI's director, is an attorney who knows how to relate to policy makers. He is a decent human being as well as a very capable leader. Would you be willing to have him contact you to discuss the possibility of your lending some assistance to the Genetics Policy Institute?

Whether your answer, I look forward to continuing to correspond on occasion on matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

Fare Leick